

## **William R. Lowes Civil War Letters**

S856

1861-1864

1folder

Manuscript & Rare Books Division  
Indiana State Library

Finding Aid by: Nikki Stoddard Schofield, March 2012

### **Biographical History:**

William R. Lowes was a resident of Acton, Marion County, Indiana, and served as a private in Company G, 70<sup>th</sup> Indiana Regiment in Tennessee and Georgia from 1862 to 1865. The collection includes letters to his wife Rhoda, called "Rody," and letters by other soldiers to William Lowes.

The 70<sup>th</sup> was mustered into service on August 12, 1862 with Colonel Benjamin Harrison in command.

The 1880 federal census listed William R. Lowes, age 40, living with his wife Soyther I. Lowes, age 25, and two children: Jesse E., age 13, and James M., 10 months. He was a farmer in Perry, Marion County, Indiana. In 1920, William is listed as 79, with his wife Schytha J., age 64, and Rhoda M. Hughey, age 84. Rhoda M. Hughey applied for a pension as the widow of James A. Hughey.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

There are 26 items in this collection, all letters with the exception of one small envelope addressed to: "Mrs. Rhoda A. Lowes, Acton, Marion County, Ind."

Joe E. Lowes wrote to his brother on September 23, 1861 and said he was gratified to be an uncle of a boy, although his favorite name was Eveline. He tells about a muddy march, but does not say where.

D. H. Stoops wrote to Lieutenant Lowes from the City General Hospital in Indianapolis, on July 20, 1864, saying that he and the boys will not be ready for duty for two months or "some never." He said they are bound for the "Condemned Corp." Company G is well represented with ten members in the hospital. They had a fine time while home on furlough. He is sorry to hear that Company G was so badly cut to pieces, and suffer worse than other companies. He says that he likes to hear of the boys' bravery but fears they are too brave for their own good.

J. W. Leggs wrote to "Dear Friend" on note paper imprinted: Medical Purveyor's Office, Department of the Cumberland, Nashville. This letter is dated August 31, 1864, and mentions hearing the news that General George McClellan has been nominated by the

Democratic National Convention as the presidential candidate to oppose Lincoln. They had some excitement the last two days in regard to General Wheeler. Mr. Leggs has been detailed to General Thomas.

The 23 letters to his wife Rhoda, called Rody, are separated into two archival envelopes: 13 letters written in 1862, and 10 letters written in 1864. There are none for 1863 or 1865. He writes about Old Rosy (General Rosecrans) and General Burnside making the Rebels under General Bragg "skedaddle in a hurry." In his letter of November 12, 1862, he wrote that Col. Harrison got off his horse to let sick men ride. His letter of November 18 also praises Colonel Benjamin Harrison, and list many names of men in his unit.

William's May 21, 1864 letter lists men killed. He frequently mentions Lizzie Lowes, along with his wife "Rody", so perhaps the women lived together. He refers to his son as "little pet," and not by name.

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## Item Listing

Folder 1. Twenty-six handwritten letters and one envelope.

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|----------------|--|
| 1862-1864      | 23 letters from William to his wife Rhoda "Rody" |
| Sept. 23, 1861 | Letter from Joe E. Lowes to "Dear Brother"       |
| July 20, 1864  | Letter from D. H. Stoops to Lieut. Lowes         |
| Aug. 31, 1864  | Letter from J. W. Leggs to "Dear Friend"         |

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## Collection Information

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|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Size of Collection:</i>  | 1 folder with 26 letters and one envelope   |
| <i>Collection Dates:</i>    | 1862-1864   |
| <i>Provenance:</i>          | Unknown   |
| <i>Access :</i>             | The collection is open for research use.  |
| <i>Restrictions:</i>        | Unknown.  |
| <i>Reproduction Rights:</i> | Permission to reproduce, exhibit, or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Manuscript and Rare Books Division, Indiana State Library. |
| <i>Language:</i>            | Materials are entirely in English.  |
| <i>Alternate Formats:</i>   | None.   |
| <i>Related Holdings:</i>    | None.   |
| <i>Notes:</i>               | None.   |